

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

8 November 2001

B5-0687/2001

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Georg Jarzembowski, Sir Robert Atkins, Jacqueline Foster, James Nicholson, Bartho Pronk and Carlos Ripoll

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the economic and employment situation in the air transport sector and in the related industrial and service sectors

European Parliament resolution on the economic and employment situation in the air transport sector and in the related industrial and service sectors

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas, even before the tragic events of 11 September 2001, some air carriers had to face serious structural problems due to the worldwide economic recession and, in some cases, to incorrect internal company decisions,
- B. whereas passenger numbers have declined worldwide, and especially on transatlantic routes, since the September attacks, and whereas many air carriers have stopped, temporarily or definitively, serving a great number of destinations in order to counteract this development,
- C. concerned about the fact that the US government is distorting international air traffic through massive subsidies to US air carriers,
- D. afraid that more air carriers might postpone or cancel their aircraft orders,
- E. whereas American aircraft manufacturers have already experienced substantial job losses and European aircraft manufacturers are also facing serious problems because of the events of 11 September 2001,
- F. concerned about the dramatic drop in the numbers of tourists, in particular those visiting Europe from the USA, with all its far-reaching consequences for the whole tourism industry,
 - 1. Is convinced that airlines must be compensated to a great extent for the losses they suffered as a result of the four to seven day closure of US airports;
 - 2. Asks the Member States to take all necessary steps measures in order to help airlines find a solution regarding the withdrawal of insurance cover, as they must not be made financially responsible for the risks of war and terrorist acts;
 - 3. Strongly opposes general state aids for airlines, as such subsidies distort competition and are not in accordance with EU law;
 - 4. Asks the Commission to draw up appropriate proposals that make it possible to counteract the massive aid the US government provides to US air carriers;
 - 5. Demands that national governments assume responsibility for additional security costs;
 - 6. Furthermore, asks the Commission, during the process of consolidation amongst European air carriers, to apply European competition rules in individual cases so that

new structures may be put in place among Europe's airlines;

7. Asks the Commission to watch developments on the labour market in the air industry very closely so that, if necessary, it can present effective proposals for the safeguarding or creation of jobs;
8. Supports the social partners' efforts to avoid more dismissals through temporary salary reductions and more flexible working hours, and expects both sides to find new ways to stabilise employment;
9. Asks the Commission and the Member States to implement appropriate proposals to restore public confidence in air traffic safety and revive tourism;
10. Demands that the European Union give massive support to national publicity campaigns, in particular in the United States, in order to revive tourism;
11. Asks the Commission to see to it that, in the European internal market, Member States do not act unilaterally in favour of their own airlines and that competition among European carriers is not restricted;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the Member States and the governments of the applicant countries.